Setting up Handloom Development Centres and *Quality Dyin*g Units to Gujarat

1899. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased,to state:

(a) whether Handloom Development Centres and Quality Dying Units have been set up in Gujarat with Central Grants for the benefit of handloom weavers of the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof, district-wise; and

(c) the measures initiated for the overall development of handloom sector in Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) The Government of Gujarat has been sanctioned assistance for setting up 7 Handloom Development Centres only.

(b) The details of the 7 Handloom Development Centres sanctioned are as under:—

1. M/s Kunkavav Tal Weavers Cooperative Society Ltd. Amreli
2. Sati Vibhag Handloom Weavers Cooperative Society Ltd., Dang
3. Ambika Vividh Laxmi Vankar Audyogik Sahkari Samiti Ltd., Badoli
4. Bhasaria Weaqvers Industrial Cooperative Society Ltd., Bhasaria
5. Shri Bhujodi Cotton & Wool Handloom Weaving Cooperative Society, Bhujodi, Kutch.
6. Sahyog Weavers Cooperative Society Ltd., Magarwads, Tal Vadgam, Banaskantha
7. Patan Weavers Workers Industrial Cooperative Society Ltd., Patan, Mehsana.

(c) For the overall development of handloom sector in Gujarat, assistance has also been given under the following schemes:

Welfare Schemes

(i) Workshed-cum-Housing Scheme
(ii) Health Package Scheme
(iii) Thrift Fund Scheme
(iv) New Insurance Scheme

Developmental Schemes

(i) Market Development Assistance Scheme
(ii) Publicity & Exhibition Scheme
(iii) Development of Exportable Products and their Marketing Scheme
(iv) Mill Gate Price Scheme
(v) Margin Money for Destitute Weavers

Besides, a sum of Rs. 4.25 crore has also been released to Government of Gujarat for rehabilitation of the handloom weavers affected by earthquake in the districts of Kutch, Bhuj, Surendernagar, Jamnagar, Rajkot and Banaskanta.

Further, under the workshed-cum-housing scheme for handloom weavers, a sum of Rs. 4.60 crore has been sanctioned for construction of rural & urban workshed-cum-houses of the earthquake affected weavers of Gujarat State. Out of this sanctioned amount, a sum of Rs. 2.30 crore has already been released as the 1st instalment.

Increasing import duty on cotton

1900. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that off-take of cotton in the domestic market is coming down gradually due to imports;

(b) if so, whether the Ministry will think of increasing the import duty from the present rate of 10 per cent to 25 per cent so as to discourage cotton imports into the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any representation from the Government of Andhra